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INFORMATIVE NOTE

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EO25x1

Date

1/17/75

Attached [redacted] advises of the consideration of an attempt to abduct a U. S. Official during the visit of Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March of 1975. (C)

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[redacted] the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), an anti-government guerrilla group of some 300 to 400 combatants, has requested assistance of the Montonero group in a plan to abduct a U. S. Official or head of a U. S. firm in Argentina during the March, 1975, meeting in Buenos Aires of the foreign ministers of the western hemisphere. The Montonero group, also anti-government, has about 2,500 members. Following the abduction, a public message would be addressed to Kissinger demanding a large sum of money for the release of the victim. The intent would be to embarrass the U. S. Secretary of State and depict him as a cold individual, if the ransom terms are not accepted, or a weak one, if the conditions are met. (C)

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The Montonero leadership is opposed to a joint operation. However, it is judged that the ERP has sufficient manpower to carry out an abduction of foreign business executives or officials of the U. S. Mission in Buenos Aires who do not have armed security guards. (C)

You will be advised of any pertinent information received in this matter

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CITE

DIST 15 JANUARY 1975

Political Matter

PRB

COUNTRY : ARGENTINA

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SUBJECT : CONSIDERATION BY THE ERP OF AN ATTEMPT TO
ABDUCT A U.S. OFFICIAL DURING KISSINGER'S
VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES; OBJECTIONS BY THE
MONTONEROS TO THIS PROPOSAL

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUMMARY.

THE

PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) HAS REQUESTED MONTONERO

ASSISTANCE IN A PLAN TO ABDUCT A U.S. OFFICIAL OR THE HEAD OF A U.S. FIRM IN ARGENTINA DURING THE SCHEDULED MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH 1975 OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THE ERP OBJECTIVE IN CARRYING OUT SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD BE TO DISRUPT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AND EMBARRASS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE OVERALL LEADER OF THE MONTONEROS FAVORS THE ERP PLAN, THE MAJORITY OF THE MONTONEROS ARE OPPOSED TO ITS ENACTMENT AND FEEL IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO MONTONERO POLITICAL GOALS.

[REDACTED] DOUBTS THAT THE ERP HAS SUFFICIENT MANPOWER OR ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO CONDUCT SUCH AN OPERATION BY THEMSELVES AND, SINCE THE MONTONEROS WILL PROBABLY NOT AGREE TO A JOINT VENTURE, [REDACTED] THAT ANY SUCH OPERATION WILL BE

ATTEMPTED. THE MONTONEROS ARE MORE INTERESTED THIS TIME IN WORKING FOR A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT IN ARGENTINA UNDER THE

Brazil Argentina

u.s. Sec. of State
Asst. Sec. of State

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LEADERSHIP OF A "PERUANISTA BLOC" OF MILITARY OFFICERS WHICH
IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE MONTONEROS THE LATTER ORGANIZATION
HAS ALSO BEEN HEARTENED BY RECENT CONTACT WHICH HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED BY THAT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SUPPORTED
FORMER ECONOMY MINISTER JOSE BER G E L B A R D. END SUMMARY.

EO25x1 1. [REDACTED] THE ERP HAS
[REDACTED] TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT VENTURE TO
ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE
WESTERN HEMISPHERE, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN
MARCH 1975. THE GENERAL ERP PROPOSAL, AS PRESENTED TO THE
MONTONEROS, IS TO KIDNAP A U.S. OFFICIAL OR THE HEAD OF AN
AMERICAN COMPANY WHILE SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IS IN
ARGENTINA, FOLLOWING THE ABDUCTION, A PUBLIC MESSAGE WOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO KISSINGER DEMANDING A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR
THE RELEASE OF THE VICTIM. THE INTENT OF THE ERP IS TO
EMBARRASS THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE AND DEPICT HIM AS A
COLD INDIVIDUAL, IF THE RANSOM TERMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED, OR A
WEAK ONE, IF THE CONDITIONS ARE MET. ERP LEADERS
BELIEVE THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE LITTLE CHANCE TO
TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST KISSINGER PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF THE

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EXPECTED PROTECTION WE WILL BE AFFORDED WHILE IN THE COUNTRY.

2. AS OF MID-JANUARY THE MONTONERO LEADERSHIP, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OVERALL LEADER MARIO F I R M E N I C H, WERE OPPOSED TO THE ERP SUGGESTIN FOR A JOINT OPERATION, COMMENTING THAT THEY BELIEVE SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT.

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A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THIS NATURE AT THIS TIME WOULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF RIGHTIST MILITARY LEADERS AND DISCOURAGE WHAT WAS TERMED THE "PERUANISTA BLOC" OF ARMY OFFICERS WHO ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE MONTONEROS.

EO25x1

3. ORGANIZATION IS WORKING TOWARD A FUTURE MILITARY COUP D'ETAT WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE LINES OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION AND WHICH WOULD BE LED BY GENERAL D A L A T E A (PHONETIC). THE MONTONEROS BELIEVE THAT THE "PERUANISTA BLOC" OF OFFICERS IS INCREASING ITS STRENGTH CONTINUALLY AND THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FALLS OR IS OVERTHROWN. ALSO, THE MONTONEROS HAVE BEEN HEARTENED BY THE RECENT CONTACT WITH THEM WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THAT SECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SUPPORTED FORMER ECONOMY

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MINISTER JOSE BER G E L B A R D.

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4.

DOUBTS REGARDING

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THE CAPABILITY OF THE ERP TO CARRY OUT ITS PROPOSED OPERATION
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE MONTONEROS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF
THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT MANPOWER OR ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION. THE ERP ONLY HAS SOME 300 TO 400
COMBATANTS AT THE PRESENT TIME, COMPARED TO AN ARMED MONTONERO
STRENGTH OF SOME 2,500. FOR THIS REASON,

DOUBTED THAT THE ERP WOULD ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT THE

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OPERATION BY THEMSELVES. COMMENT: THE ESTIMATE OF
ERP ARMED COMBATANT STRENGTH APPEARS TO BE ACCURATE. ALSO,

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A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE COMBATANTS ARE NOW
ASSIGNED TO ERP COMPANIES IN THE INTERIOR OF ARGENTINA.

NONETHELESS, THAT THE ERP HAS SUFFICIENT
MANPOWER AND PROBABLY HAS ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

EO25x1

TO CARRY OUT AN ABDUCTION OF FOREIGN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES
AND OR THOSE OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. MISSION IN BUENOS AIRES WHO DO
NOT HAVE ARMED SECURITY GUARDS,)

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